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DEFENDERS OF DYNATRON CITY
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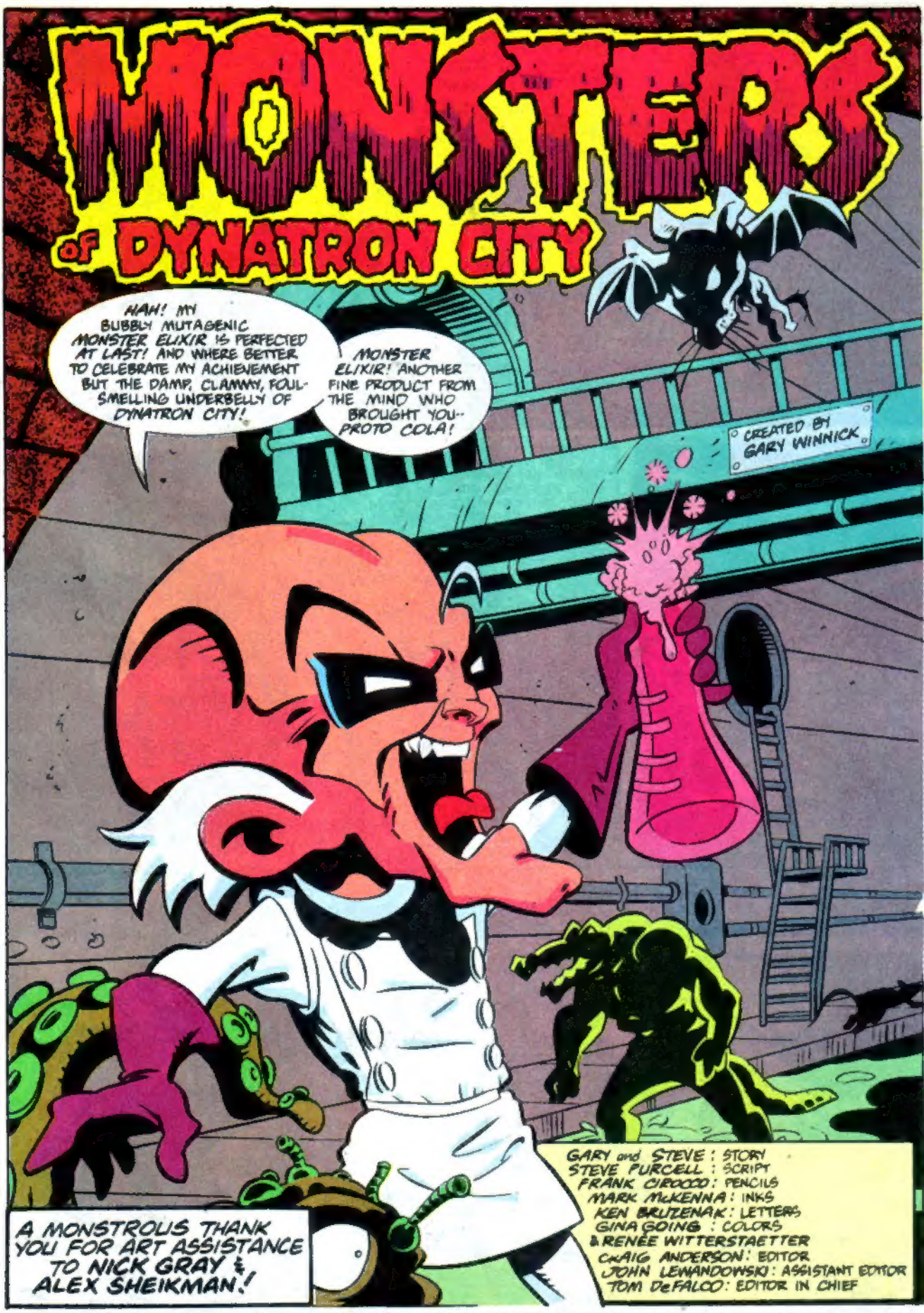

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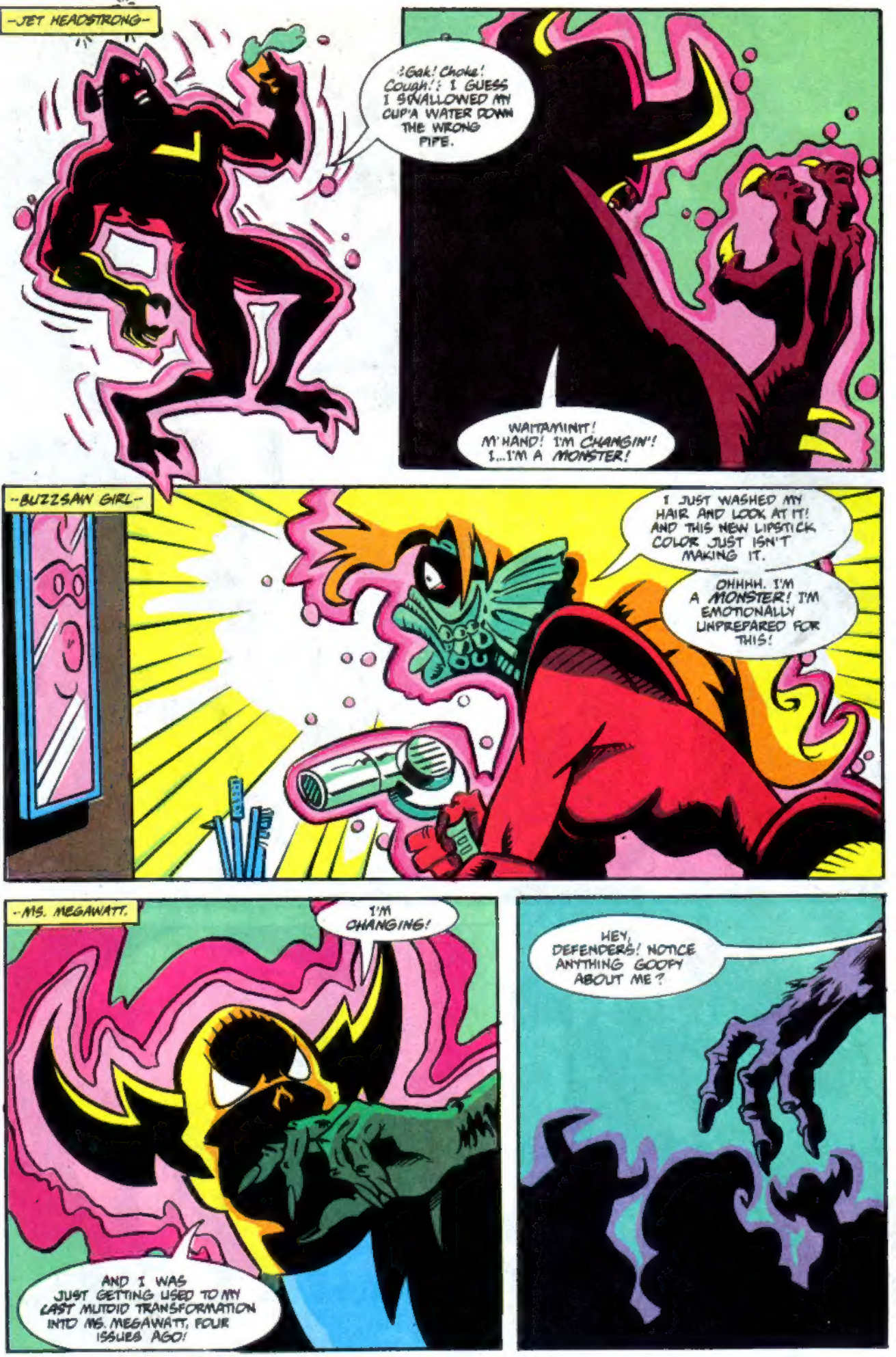
DYNATRON CITY
WATER MAIN
DO NOT POISON OR TAMP
PAY ATTENTION, ED. THIS PRESSURIZED CAULDRON OF MY MONSTER ELIXIR IS HOOKED IN TO THE CITY'S WATER SUPPLY. ANYONE WHO USES WATER IN DYNATRON CITY WILL BE DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY ITS COMPLETE AND UTTER AWFULNESS!
YOU'RE MY PERSONAL HERO, DAD--Um... I MEAN, DOCTOR MAYHEM. I LONG TO SEE ITS EFFECT.
WELL, THEN... LET THE HORROR BEGIN!
krank krank krank
JUST LISTEN TO IT, ED! THAT'S THE SOUND OF EVIL, MY EVIL, FLOWING STRAIGHT TO EVERY DYNATRON HOUSEHOLD LIKE AN ARMY OF PSYCHOTIC ANON LADIES!
glug glug glug
IT WON'T BE LONG, MY SLIPPERY FRIENDS. SOON, YOU'LL HAVE SCORES OF NEW PLAYMATES!
SKAAK
DOCTOR MAYHEM, I'M SO HAPPY. IF I HAD TEAR DUCTS, I THINK I'D CRY.
SHUT UP, ED! YOU'RE SPOILING EVERYTHING!

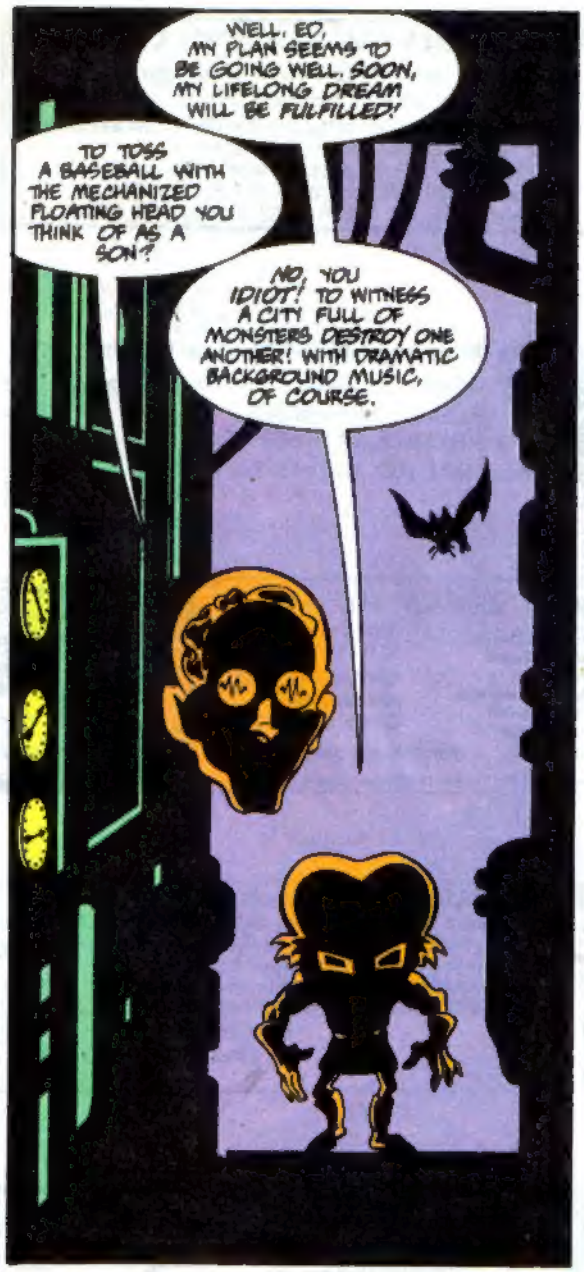
MEANWHILE, AT DEFENDERS OF DYNATRON CITY HEADQUARTERS, MONKEY KID BRUSHES HIS DIRTY LITTLE CHICKPEA-LIKE TEETH--
Mmmm. I'VE GOTTA STOP FALLING ASLEEP WITH SALTWATER TAFFY IN MY MOUTH.
THIS TAP WATER TASTES BUBBLY. LIKE THAT BOTTLED GUNK FROM FRANCE.
:-ERP?:
YOWW! WHAT'S COME OVER ME?
I'M A MONSTER! I LOOK LIKE MIGHTY JOE YOUNG!
GOT TO TELL JET AND THE OTHERS!
MONKEY KID'S LOPING FIGURE SEEKS OUT FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE DEFENDERS' TEAM--


-JET HEADSTRONG-
¿Gak! Choke! Cough!? I GUESS I SWALLOWED MY CUP'A WATER DOWN THE WRONG PIPE.
WAITAMINIT! M'HAND! I'M CHANGIN'! I...I'M A MONSTER!
-BUZZSAW GIRL-
I JUST WASHED MY HAIR AND LOOK AT IT! AND THIS NEW LIPSTICK COLOR JUST ISN'T MAKING IT.
OHHHH. I'M A MONSTER! I'M EMOTIONALLY UNPREPARED FOR THIS!
-MS. MEGAWATT-
I'M CHANGING!
AND I WAS JUST GETTING USED TO MY LAST MUTOID TRANSFORMATION INTO MS. MEGAWATT, FOUR ISSUES AGO!
HEY, DEFENDERS! NOTICE ANYTHING GOOPY ABOUT ME?

WELL... YOU, TOO, HUH?
50¢ CHEAP!
OH, I WAS WORRIED. I THOUGHT I'D BE THE HOMELIEST KID IN CLASS.
GRRAAR. I THINK MY MIND'S CLOUDIN' OVER. I FEEL LIKE BUSTIN' STUFF. SAY, WHERE'S RADIUM DOG?
HAS ANYONE BRUSHED THIS DOG LATELY? OH MY GOSH!
GRRRR!

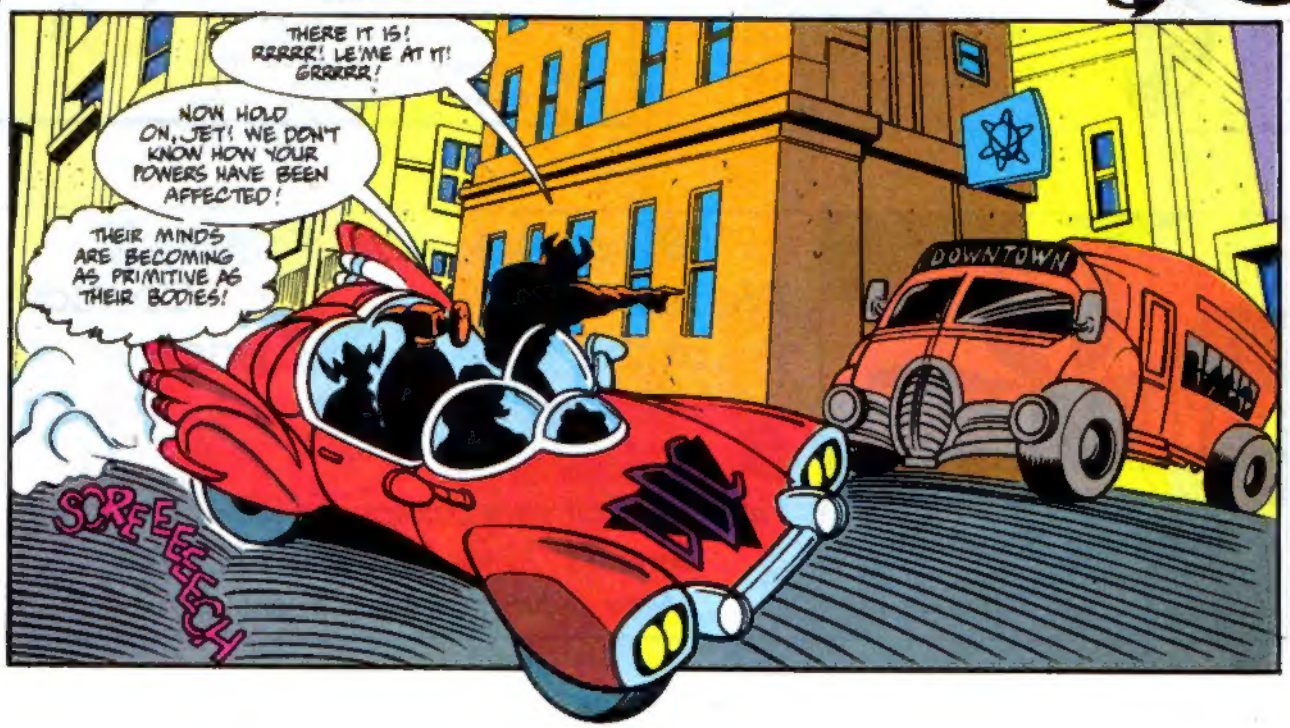
LATER, IN THE DDC READY ROOM, TOOLBOX CONDUCTS AN EMERGENCY MEETING--
IT'S NOT JUST THE DEFENDERS OF DYNATRON CITY THAT ARE AFFECTED-- IT'S THE ENTIRE POPULATION!
GRUNT
UNK UNK
UURRG
CAST YOUR FREAKISH GAZES THIS WAY, DEFENDERS. I HAVE SOME VIDEO VISUAL AIDS.
SCREEEK
RURHR
THIS CONFUSED CITIZEN IS TRYING TO CARRY ON WITH HIS LIFE AS USUAL.
HE'S BEEN ROAMING AROUND TRYING TO REMEMBER WHERE TO PICK UP HIS DRY CLEANING. WHAT ARE THE CHANCES HIS PANTS WILL EVEN FIT OVER HIS RAZOR-SHARP TOENAILS?
IT'S THE SAME ALL OVER TOWN! I'M NOT SURE YET WHY I'M COMPLETELY UNAFFECTED, BUT IT COULD BE THE FACT THAT I'M NOT MADE OF LIVING TISSUE IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE.

URKK
UNTIL WE CAN FIND A WAY TO UNDO THE EFFECT, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE LIKE BUSINESS AS USUAL. AND THAT MEANS BEHAVING LIKE A CRACK SUPER HERO TEAM! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
GRAAAHH
KLANG KLANG KLANG
WHAAAT IS IT!!? AAARR!
CALM DOWN, JET. IT'S MY CRIME DETECTION ALARM. YOU'VE ALL HEARD IT A MILLION TIMES. JEEZ!
LET'S FIND OUT WHAT IT'S ABOUT.
LOOKS LIKE A HOSTAGE SITUATION! TWO MONSTER TERRORISTS HAVE TAKEN A BUSLOAD OF MONSTER PASSENGERS! LET'S ROLL! OR SHOULD I SAY, LET'S SHAMBLE?

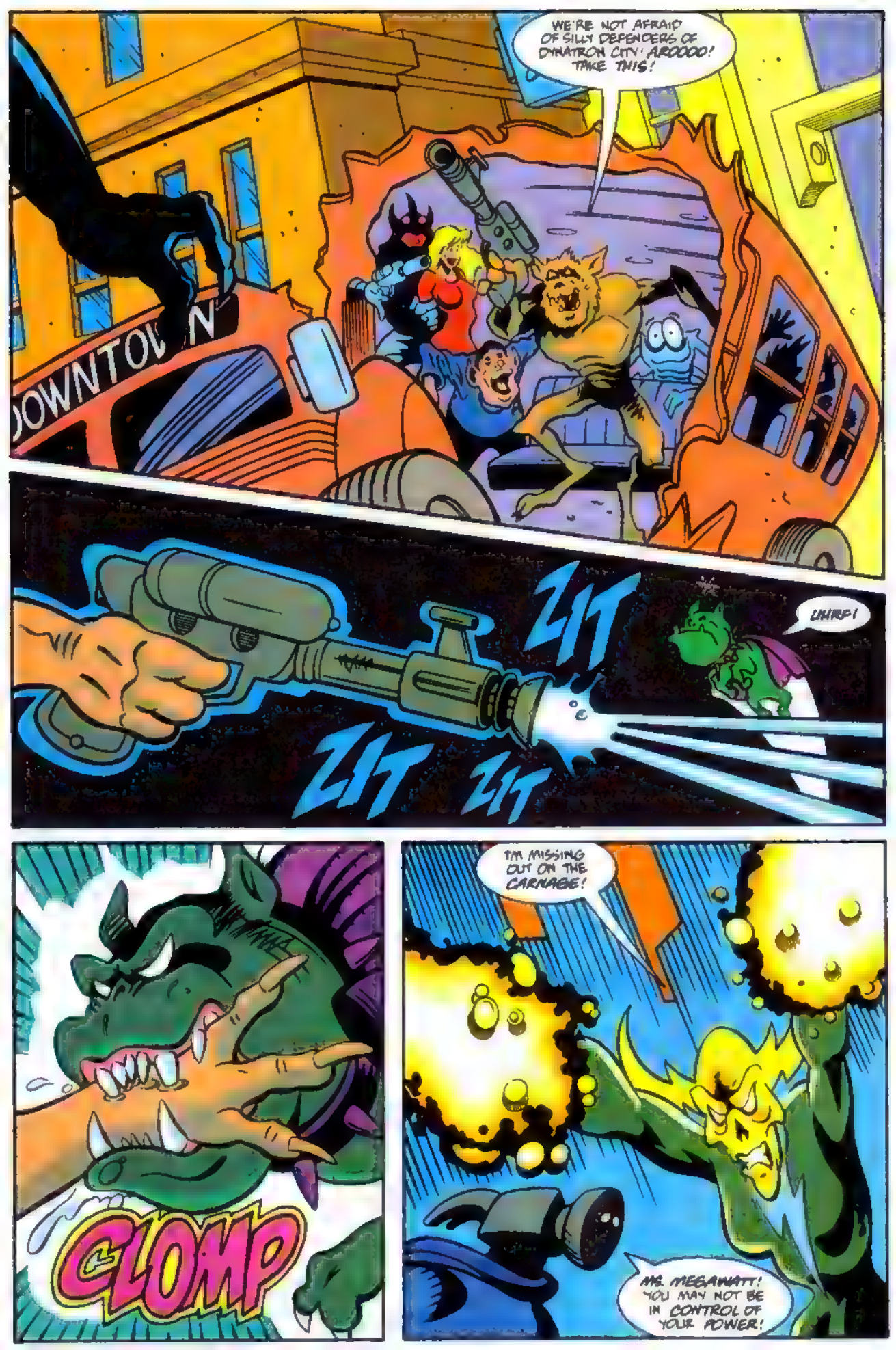

WELL, ED, MY PLAN SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL. SOON, MY LIFELONG DREAM WILL BE FULFILLED!
TO TOSS A BASEBALL WITH THE MECHANIZED FLOATING HEAD YOU THINK OF AS A SON?
NO, YOU IDIOT! TO WITNESS A CITY FULL OF MONSTERS DESTROY ONE ANOTHER! WITH DRAMATIC BACKGROUND MUSIC, OF COURSE.

IT'S TIME TO ENHANCE THE MONSTER ELIXIR-TO-WATER RATIO. I MUST INSURE THAT EVERY LIVING BEING IN DYNATRON CITY IS AFFECTED!
RTA

GO WARM UP THE HOVER PLATFORM, ED. I WANT TO FLOAT DOWNTOWN AND HAVE A LOOK AT MY HANDIWORK.
SKEEK!


THERE IT IS! RRRRR! LE'ME AT IT! GRRRRR!
NOW HOLD ON, JET! WE DON'T KNOW HOW YOUR POWERS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED!
THEIR MINDS ARE BECOMING AS PRIMITIVE AS THEIR BODIES!
DOWNTOWN
SCREEEECH

OOK OOK! NO! LET ME! THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY!
MONKEY KID! COME BACK HERE! LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS!
FRANK'S PLACE
DOWNTOWN
GRUNT! GRAAR!
KRIISH
SAVE SOME FOR ME, MONKEY KID!
MY SAWBLADE IS ITCHING FOR WANTON DESTRUCTION. SCREEEE!
BZZZZZZZ
BAHH HAAA
TO WATCH HER DESTROY-- IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
UH-OH.


WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF SILLY DEFENDERS OF DYNATRON CITY! AROOOO! TAKE THIS!
ZIT
ZIT
ZIT
UHRF!
CLOMP
I'M MISSING OUT ON THE CARNAGE!
MS. MEGAWATT! YOU MAY NOT BE IN CONTROL OF YOUR POWER!

I PICKED THE BUS RIGHT UP! I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE. RRAARRR!
AEEEEEEEE
UGG! BUS IS EMPTY! WANT TO WRECK BUS!
POOM
YEEEEHAWROOOOO!
GOOD WRECKING, JET!
KA-THOOM!

YIIEEEE!
CRUSH YOU!
AARGHH!
THIS MONSTER BUSINESS IS GETTING WAY OUT OF HAND! I FEEL LIKE A ZOO-KEEPER.
I'VE GOT TO GET THESE MONSTER DEFENDERS OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY TAKE THE TOWN APART!
UNK UNK!
CLANK
WAS FUN. MUCH FUN.
SHHNNK
OONK OONK UNK. WHAT NOW, TOOLBOX? DESTROY SOMETHING ELSE?
GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO GET THE TOWN OUT OF THIS FIX.

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO SEE, ED. EVEN THE MIGHTY DEFENDERS OF DINATRON CITY HAVE SUCCUMBED TO MY PLOT IN NO TIME. EVEN THEY WILL BE CRAWLING ON ALL FOURS, HUNTING DOGS AND CATS FOR THEIR DINNER.
JUST LIKE SURVIVALIST SUMMER CAMP. NEAT!
ALL ABOARD, DEFENDERS! I'VE GOT TO GET YOU BACK TO HEADQUARTERS BEFORE YOU START KNOCKING OVER BUILDINGS.
YESSSS! KNOCK BUILDINGS! BIG BUILDINGS! GRAAR!
JET, YOU NEED TO BE A BETTER EXAMPLE.
KNOCK BIIIG BUILDINGS! YESSS!
PAM!
VROOOM!
WE'LL TAKE A SHORT CUT THROUGH THE PARK
LOOOK! BIRDIE TO EAT! KITTY TO EAT! Mmmm!

TWERP TWEET.
NEEOW
TWERP TWERP TWEEE
HSSSS
SPOIK!
KAAAK
!
GOOD GRAVY! IT'S IN THE WATER SUPPLY! LETS MOVE, DEFENDERS!
KAW! KAW!
MEOW?

LATER, BACK IN TOOLBOX'S FUNNY-SMELLING SCIENCE LAB..
WUGGAWUGGA
I THINK I'VE ISOLATED A TEMPORARY ANTIDOTE TO THIS MONSTER NONSENSE! THIS MIXTURE OF ENZYMES AND VARIOUS SISSY-BUTT BOTTLED WATERS SHOULD DO THE TRICK WHEN INJECTED INTO THE SPINE OF THE SUBJECT!
THAT MAKE LOUD BAD NOISE!
EXIT
COME BACK HERE, YOU BABIES! WE NEED A TEST SUBJECT!
OOK OOK! USE RADIUM! HE'S A DOG! HE WON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!
UNK UNK. SEE? YOU CAN JUST GRAB HIM AND STICK HIM.
GRRRRR
MAYBE NOT

I'M USING YOU, MONKEY KID! YOU'RE THE MOST LIKELY SUBJECT BECAUSE IF YOU CONVULSE IN AGONY, YOU'D DO ME THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DAMAGE. LET'S GO!
YESSS MONKEY KID UUUSE MONKEY KID.
GOOD CHOICE, TOOLBOX.
OKAY, TURN AROUND, MONKEY KID. YOU MAY FEEL SOME PRESSURE WHEN I TRY TO PUSH THIS SUCKER THROUGH THE BONE.
UIP!
GAAAAHH!
THAT'S THE END OF MY CAREER AS A NIGHT-CLUB BOUNCER
RUHRP?
TOOLBOX, ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I AM?
RIGHT, MONKEY KID. LET'S FIND DOCTOR MAYHEM!
YOU MONSTER DEFENDERS STAY RIGHT HERE. YOU'RE NOT IN CONTROL OF YOUR FACULTIES. AND DON'T BREAK ANYTHING!

THIS WATERMAN RUNS RIGHT UNDER MAYHEM'S LAB. SOMEBODY SHOULD SHUT THAT PLACE DOWN.
YOU KNOW, IT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT OUR LEGAL SYSTEM THAT HE KEEPS SQUIRMING FREE FROM THE LAW ON TECHNICALITIES.
YEAH. THE LAST TIME THEY LET HIM OFF 'CAUSE HIS HEAD WOULDN'T FIT THROUGH THE COURTROOM DOOR.
DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
WHAT'S THAT?
Glug Glug
DYNATRON CITY WATER MAIN
DO NOT POISON OR TAMPER WITH
HE'S PUMPING IT RIGHT INTO THE WATER SUPPLY! NO ONE COULD HAVE ESCAPED IT!
AND NO ONE WILL, YOU ANEMIC LITTLE SIDESHOW GEEK!
I'LL HAVE ATOM ED FRY YOU LIKE AN ITALIAN SAUSAGE! MAKE IT UGLY, ED!
BOONK
SCREEK

HAPPILY, DOCTOR MAYHEM.
ZZZZZZZZAT!
BZZTT!
!
KRZZZZTT!
GOOOD, MEGAWAAAT!
SORRY, TOOLBOX, WE JUST COULDN'T MISS A GOOD BRAWL! YEEEEK!
TAKE THEM, JET!
YIIIIIEEEEEE!
TH OOM!

THESE DEFENDERS OF DYNATRON CITY CONTINUE TO PLAGUE ME LIKE A WEEPING BOIL!
OOPS! TOOLBOX'S ANTIDOTE IS WEARING OFF! OONK! GRAAR!
UNK UNK! DID SOMEBODY CALL SOMEONE AN ANEMIC LITTLE CIRCUS GEEK?
I DIDN'T MEAN YOU! I MEANT THE ONE BEHIND YOU!
MONKEY KID! YOU'RE OUT OF CONTROL! AW, WHAT THE HECK. GO NUTS, MONKEY KID!
I THINK YOU COULD USE A TASTE OF THIS MONSTER SOUP, MAYHEM!
NO! I DON'T DEAL WELL WITH LIQUIDS!
SPLOOSH

OOK OOK UNK!
SAY-- :Grunt: CHECK THIS OUT!
FLUSH
Gurgle
WWAAAUGGH-- :Cof Cof: WWAAAAUGGGH--
FOR THE LOVE OF--WHAT THE--?
OOK! WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED, TOOLBOX?
MY GUESS IS THAT MAYHEM WAS SUCH A HATEFUL MONSTER ALREADY, ALL HIS ELIXIR COULD DO WAS MAKE HIM CUTE AND LOVABLE.

THAT'S FINE, TOOLBOX. BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR US AND EVERYONE ELSE IN TOWN? I WANT TO BE ABLE TO PULL A COMB THROUGH MY HAIR AGAIN SOMEDAY.
A-GOO! GLEE GLAH!
GRUNT-- WHAT'S THE HURRY, BUZZSAW GIRL? HALLOWEEN'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER. UNK.
GRRRRR.
SHREEEE!
I'LL DICE YOU TO SHOESTRING FRIES, MONKEY KID!
YIKES!
AND I'LL DEEP FRY YOU!

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE DEFENDERS ARRIVE AT DDC HQ AFTER A BRIEF STOP AT THE DINATRON CITY ORPHANAGE TO DROP OFF A GREASY LITTLE BUNDLE OF JOY...
TOOLBOX, CHANGE US BACK TO BIG GOOD PEOPLE?
DDC
THAT'S RIGHT, JET. NO MORE GRATUITOUS TRASHING FOR US.
I GO FIRST! JET BRAVE, MONSTER!
HOLD STILL, YOU MAY FEEL A SLIGHT PRICKING SENSATION.
Pork
GAAAH!
NOW THAT WE'VE CONFISCATED THE ACTUAL MONSTER ELIXIR, I CAN PRODUCE A REMEDY FOR THE WHOLE CITY.
THAT'LL BE GREAT, TOOLBOX. BUT WHAT'RE YA' GONNA DO WITH MONKEY KID'S GOLDFISH?
I CAN'T LET THE ELIXIR GO TO WASTE WITHOUT SOME EXPERIMENTATION. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
YEAH... UH... WHAT COULD HAPPEN? Gulp!
I GUESS YER CRAZY, TOOLBOX-- BUT YER OUR KINDA CRAZY. WE'LL BE MOSEYIN' ON OUTTA HERE, ANYWAY.
THE END
BE WITH US NEXT TIME--SOMEDAY--SOON, WE HOPE!

JIM APARO

1932 - 2005

One of the last TRUE comic book professionals